

ANNUAL REPORT

ON

The Health of the Urban District

OF

SADDLEWORTH,

FOR THE YEAR

1908,

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.





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# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

## SADDLEWORTH.

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*Sanitary Inspector :*

MR. JOHN THOMAS BRADBURY.



SUNNYSIDE,  
DOBCROSS,  
JANUARY, 1909.

*To the District Council of the Urban Sanitary District  
of Saddleworth.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting my Report on the Health of your District during the year 1908.

POPULATION.

The population of the Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth may be regarded as stationary, the excess of births over deaths being compensated for by the migration of people to neighbouring towns, so that the figure 12,319 (the population at the last census, 1901) is taken as representing your district at the middle of the year 1908.

BIRTHS.

The number of births registered during the year was 240, of which 120 were males and 120 females. The natural increase of population, represented by the excess of births over deaths, was 58. As regards still-births, I have no available information. The illegitimate births were 12 in number.

BIRTH-RATE.

The estimated BIRTH-RATE is 19·48 per 1,000 inhabitants. During the last 5 years it was as follows :

1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
<u>20·7</u>	<u>18·8</u>	<u>19·2</u>	<u>19·4</u>	<u>19·48</u>

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Of the 240 children born, 29 died under the age of one year, as against 18 in 1907, 21 in 1906. This means that 120·8 out of every 1000 born, died under the age of one year, or in other words, out of every nine children born, one died before it was a year old.

DEATHS.

The deaths registered during the year were 182 in number. Of these, 100 were males and 82 females.

DEATH-RATE.

The DEATH-RATE is estimated at 14·7 per 1,000 inhabitants. The comparison with previous years reads as follows :

1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
<u>14·7</u>	<u>16·07</u>	<u>14·45</u>	<u>15·1</u>	<u>14·7</u>



The number of deaths classified according to AGE are

Under 1 year .....	29
Between 1 year and 5.....	9
„ 5 „ 15.....	6
„ 15 „ 25.....	8
„ 25 „ 65.....	67
Over 65.....	63

Tabulated according to the CAUSE OF DEATH the numbers are :

	1907.	1908.
Smallpox .....	0	0
Measles .....	3	1
Scarlet Fever .....	2	0
Whooping Cough .....	1	1
Diphtheria .....	5	2
Membranous Croup .....	0	0
Typhoid Fever .....	0	0
Epidemic Influenza .....	0	0
Diarrhoea.....	0	0
Enteritis .....	1	4
Puerperal Fever .....	0	0
Erysipelas .....	0	0
Other Septic Diseases .....	2	4
Phthisis .....	16	13
Other Tubercular Diseases.....	8	7
Cancer, Malignant Disease.....	5	11
Bronchitis and other Respiratory Diseases	16	13
Pneumonia .....	11	9
Alcoholism and Cirrhosis of Liver.....	1	0
Venereal Diseases .....	0	0
Premature Birth.....	1	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition .....	1	2
Heart Disease .....	36	19
Rheumatic Fever .....	1	3
Uncertified .....	0	1
Accidents .....	5	9
Suicides .....	4	1
All Other Diseases .....	67	81

The deaths from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases were 4 in number, giving a ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATE of 0.32 per 1,000, as contrasted with 0.88 in 1907, 0.96 in 1906, 0.73 in 1905, and 1.4 in 1904.

The following table is given for the purpose of comparing the ZYMOTIC DEATH-RATES for the last 7 years :

	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria & Croup	Whooping Cough.	Fevers and Typhoid	Zymotic Diarrhoea.
1902.....	...	0.16	0.08	0.324	0.16	...	...
1903.....	0.08	...	0.08	0.16	0.08	...	...
1904.....	...	0.16	0.16	0.4	0.08	0.24	...
1905.....	...	...	0.08	0.08	0.24	0.32	...
1906.....	...	0.24	0.08	0.56	...	...	0.08
1907.....	...	0.24	0.16	0.4	0.08	...	...
1908.....	...	0.08	...	0.16	0.08	...	...

The following is a table showing the NUMBER OF DEATHS from zymotic diseases during the last 7 years :

	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria & Croup.	Whooping Cough.	Fevers and Typhoid	Zymotic Diarrhoea.	Total.
1902	...	2	1	4	1	...	...	8
1903	1	...	1	2	1	...	...	5
1904	...	2	2	5	1	3	...	13
1905	...	...	1	1	3	4	...	9
1906	...	3	1	7	...	...	1	12
1907	...	3	2	5	1	...	...	11
1908	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	4

The deaths from Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy were 22 in number, giving a RESPIRATORY DEATH-RATE of 1.78 per 1,000. During the past 6 years it was as follows:

1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.
—	—	—	—	—	—
3.5	1.5	2.27	1.2	2.19	1.78

There were 13 deaths from Phthisis, and 7 from other Tubercular Diseases. The PHTHISICAL DEATH-RATE is 1.0.

Cancer was responsible for 11 deaths, a Death-rate of nearly 0.9, compared with 0.4 in the previous year, and 0.9 in 1906.

#### INFANT MORTALITY.

This, as has already been stated, is 120.8 per 1000 children born, and is much more than the corresponding figures for many years. Of the 29 deaths in children under a year old, 12 died within a month of birth from the following causes: Premature Birth, 1; Congenital Defects, 8; Convulsions, 2; Other diseases, 1; whilst between 1 month and a year old, the deaths were as follows: Enteritis, 1; Whooping Cough, 1; Gastro-enteric Catarrh, 3; Congenital Defects, 1; Other Tubercular Diseases, 2; Meningitis, 2; Bronchitis 3; Pneumonia, 2; Other Diseases, 2. One of the 29 deaths was certified by the Coroner.

The number of deaths of children under one year of age during the last six years is as follows :

1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
—	—	—	—	—	—
37	30	27	21	18	29

The Ratio of deaths from Infectious Diseases to Notifications is as follows :

	Deaths.	Notifications.	Ratio per cent.
Diphtheria & Croup	2	12	16.6
Scarlet Fever.....	0	16	no death.
Enteric Fever .....	0	1	no death.

## HOSPITAL FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Although we have no Hospital in our own district for the isolation and treatment of Cases of Infectious Disease, yet arrangements exist, whereby we can use that belonging to the Oldham Corporation. This is, however, so distant that we have not yet availed ourselves of the opportunity.

The INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED from 1900 to 1908 are as follows :

	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
Scarlet Fever ...	17	77	44	34	83	22	86	52	16
Diphtheria .....	4	101	37	10	21	17	38	21	12
Membr. Croup...	2	3	...	1	1	0	2	0	0
Typhoid Fever } & Cont'd Fever }	7	7	5	1	11	4	1	2	1

## HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION.

I cannot do better than repeat what was said in my last Annual Report, viz: that this disease is a curable one, provided the patient can have fresh air, good food, and suitable hygienic surroundings. The giving of fresh air is the basis of the open-air treatment of Consumption. To accomplish this, a patient should have treatment at a hospital or sanatorium, for the following reasons: 1.—Change of air and better surroundings; 2.—The superintendence of the proper “open-air treatment”; 3.—The patient is away from home, and so lessens the danger of infecting his relatives and friends.

The treatment thus indicated cannot be well and efficiently carried out, unless the patient has adequate means, for experience teaches that after a time the majority of patients are obliged to discontinue the treatment from want of means, and very often just at the time when a little longer treatment would be invaluable. I therefore strongly advise you to devise some scheme whereby such patients could have the necessary pecuniary assistance, as it is a real necessity.

## NOTIFICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Sanction for the compulsory notification of Phthisis (under the Infectious Diseases [Notification] Act, 1889) was sought from the Local Government Board at my request. However, since this application, the Local Government Board have issued a General Order providing for the notification of Phthisis in Poor Law Institutions or amongst people under the care of Poor Law Medical Officers. Further, they have lately suggested: (Firstly) That Local Authorities may make arrangements with local medical practitioners for the voluntary notification to their Medical Officer of Health; and (Secondly) That they may arrange to pay them a reasonable fee for such notification. If the latter course is adopted in your district, the application for powers for compulsory notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis may be waived.



## DIPHTHERIA.

Twelve notifications of this disease were received during the year; their distribution in months being as follows: January, 2; February, 2; March, 3; May, 2; October, 1; and December, 2. Their distribution in localities was as follows: Greenfield, 2; Royal George, 1; Uppermill, 2; Dobcross, 2; and Delph, 5. The cases at Uppermill and Delph occurred during the first three months of the year, and were ascribable to infection from unrecognized cases of the disease which was more or less prevalent in those districts during December, 1907. In the case of those notified at Dobcross, Greenfield, and Royal George, no evidence throwing light on the source of infection was obtained, though the milk and water supply, sanitary conditions of the dwellings, association with cats, mice, &c., were enquired into.

## SCARLET FEVER.

The notifications received were 16 in number, occurring in months as follows: January, 6; April, 2; June, 3; July, 2; October, 1; and December, 2. Their distribution in localities was: Dobcross, 6; Slackcote, 1; Grasscroft, 2; Royal George, 5; Diggle, 1; and Grains Bar, 2. Of the Dobcross cases, 5 occurred in the same family; 2 of the Royal George and Grasscroft groups also occurred in the same family, so that there were five distinct and separate groups of cases occurring in different districts at intervals of two to three months.

## MEASLES

was epidemic in Greenfield during December, necessitating closure of the Infants' Department of the Church and Wesleyan Schools, Greenfield, and of the Boarshurst School, for a fortnight each. It was of a mild type.

## MUMPS

was also epidemic about the same time, and had influence in determining the closure of these Schools.

## ENTERIC FEVER

was notified at Dobcross during February. There was nothing of an insanitary nature about the house, though it was significant that another member of the family was suffering from gall-stones.

## ERYSIPELAS.

Three notifications of this disease were received during August, of cases occurring at Delph. In two of the cases, nuisances were found.

## DIARRHŒA AND DYSENTERY.

Epidemic Diarrhœa is conspicuous by its comparative rareness in Saddleworth, and this year has been no exception to the rule.

## DISINFECTION.

In all infectious cases the dwellings are disinfected by means of Formaldelyde, liberated from a Formalin lamp, in addition to the scrubbing of paint, lime-washing, etc. The schools are also disinfected by the same apparatus.

I do not regard disinfection by the Al-formant lamp as sufficient either for schools or houses, and think the use of a portable spray, in which a suitable disinfectant is used, should be adopted.

I have also advised the use of a portable Disinfector, which could be taken from house to house after cases of infection, so that clothing, blankets, etc. could be more effectively disinfected than is at present possible. These suggestions have not been carried out, though if adopted, I feel sure that we should speedily reap the benefit.

#### BACTERIAL DIAGNOSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The aid given by the Public Health Laboratory, under the charge of Dr. Kaye, has been of much service, by giving a prompt bacterial diagnosis in doubtful cases, *e.g.*, slight cases of sore throat (by having been thus shown to be really cases of Diphtheria) have been more effectively treated and isolated.

#### PHYSICAL FEATURES.

Saddleworth is a large and scattered district, lying on the skirts of the Pennine Chain. It is very hilly, geological evidence pointing to the hills having been worn at a post-glacial date.

The highest hill is 1700 feet high, at the top of Chew valley. For the most part, the district is situated on the Millstone Grit, although there is evidence of clay, particularly near Uppermill. The area, including the Lydgate and Strinesdale portions, is 17,663 $\frac{3}{4}$  acres, of which 8,200 is unenclosed moorland.

The water from the hills forms the River Tame, which, arising above Junction, passes through Delph, Tame Water, and Uppermill to Mossley, by Royal George. On its way it receives the Hull Brook from Castleshaw, as well as brooks from Diggle and Greenfield. The Greenfield Valley is subdivided into two; the one on the right, as we pass up the valley, being the Chew Valley, at the top of which waterworks are in the course of construction; whilst the one on the left contains two large reserves, called the Yeoman Hey and Greenfield Reservoirs. In proximity to the former there exists a large supply of spring water, collected in covered tanks. In the Castleshaw Valley, the Oldham Corporation have two large reservoirs, and near Junction, have waterworks at New Year's Bridge, Dowry, Crook Gate, and Readycon Dean.

The River Tame, with its tributaries, receives, of course, the effluents from the various mills. Since the Rivers' Pollution Prevention Act came into force, means have been adopted to purify the effluents, the process being generally one of precipitation by the addition of Alumino-ferric, with subsequent filtration through sand.

#### SEWERAGE SYSTEM.

The laying down of Sewers and the erection of Sewerage Works was completed and brought into action on December 31st, 1896. There are 4 separate drainage schemes in operation.

These are—

- 1 The Delph, Dobcross, and Diggle Scheme, in which the main sewer is laid from Junction to Brownhill, passing through Slackcote, Linfitts, Delph, and Tamewater. Branches from New Delph (up to Lower Stones), Midgrove, Dobcross, and Diggle (up to Sam Lane), run into this, which discharges its sewage at the Outfall Works near Brownhill Bridge.



- 2 The Royal George and Grasscroft Scheme, in which sewers have been laid from near Greenfield Station to Royal George, and which receives branches from Shawhall and Grasscroft. The Sewage Works are near the River Tame close to Wright Mill.
- 3 The Greenfield and Friezland Scheme, in which sewers are laid from near Greenfield Station to Waterside, and which receives branches from Horsforth, Ladhill, and Wellington Terrace. The Outfall Works are near the River Tame, and close to the Wellington Mills.
- 4 The Uppermill Scheme, in which sewers are laid along the principal streets of Uppermill, and discharge their contents into the Outfall Works near the River Tame, at Halls.

The sewerage of Saddleworth Fold has now been effected, but I would still call your attention to the condition of Diggle and Harrop Green, which also require sewerage. It is proposed to enlarge the Outfall Works at Brownhill.

#### TREATMENT OF SEWAGE.

This varies at the different Outfall Works of the various schemes.

At the works at Wright Mill, which receives the sewage of the district drained by the Royal George Scheme, it is first passed into Septic tanks, of which there are two ; from these, it passes on to bacteria beds, where it is allowed to stay for six hours, and is then run on to another bacteria bed where it stays a similar time. The effluent is afterwards allowed to pass into the river, as it is then found to be good. There are four bacteria beds, only two being used at a time, and these only during six hours out of the twenty-four, so that each one receives eighteen hours' rest. During the night and on Sundays, the effluent from the septic tanks passes through a very large filter bed made of coke, and thence into the stream.

In the Outfall Works in the Dobcross, Diggle, and Junction Scheme, the Bacterial System is adopted. This has worked very well. As it is, however, rather too small, arrangements are being made to enlarge it.

The Sewage conveyed by the Uppermill and Grasscroft Schemes, is still treated by the Polarite System, but it would be much more economical if the Bacterial Method was applied. In neither of these schemes is there any treatment of the storm water.

In the Outfall Works at Uppermill, one of the tanks still leaks ; whilst at Greenfield, the Works are liable to get swamped.

It is very desirable that the Bacterial System be applied to the treatment of the whole of the sewage.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

Milk is one of the most valuable and nutritious foods we have, and is, indeed, the main support of children. But childhood is the very time when mankind is most prone to suffer from Infectious Disease, and it is therefore on this account that we must give the subject of milk our most serious attention. The qualities that make milk so nutritious to us are also those which make it so suitable for the growth of micro-organisms.

Seeing then, that it is so liable to become contaminated by microbes, the questions arise : Is it a safe food to take ? Can it be kept pure and wholesome ? The answers to these questions may be given in the affirmative, provided the milk is clean and pure to start with. To ensure this, the farmer

must have sound, healthy, and well-groomed cattle; he, himself, should be sound and scrupulously clean, whilst the vessels used in milking, as well as those used for storing the fluid, must have been cleansed and freshly scalded. The latter should also be provided with covers to keep out dust and flies, and the milk should be stored in a clean, dry place, away from the dwelling-part of the house. The importance of keeping milk covered and protected against dust and flies is extremely great; for the settling of dust in milk may be the agent in causing infectious disease, whilst flies have again and again been shewn to be capable of conveying germs to the milk, and in this way cause Diarrhœa and Dysentery in the consumer.

The importance of having sound, healthy cattle is not to be under-estimated, for unhealthy cattle may be the means of conveying Tuberculosis and Infectious Diseases to mankind. We must then

- (1) See that the milk is clean and pure on delivery.
- (2) Provide against its being polluted in our own houses.

The cleanliness of milk may, to a large extent, be investigated by the customer, by allowing it to stand for a few hours in a tall, clean tumbler, when any dirt will be seen at the bottom of the glass; if this is obviously large in amount, the customer should complain to the farmer, and if not rectified should obtain it from another source. Having obtained his milk clean and pure, the customer, as I have said, is himself to blame if he allows it to be exposed to the deposit of dust from the air, or if he leaves it open for the flies to get to it, for this can be prevented by providing covers to the vessels.

Farmers lead arduous and anxious lives, and are undoubtedly striving to meet our demands. If our requirements cost them more time and expense, let us not then begrudge them an adequate recompense.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

The Water supplied by the Ashton, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield Waterworks is, as it has been for some time, inadequate and plumbo-solvent, and should be remedied. If we have not the number of cases of Lead-poisoning and of Gastric Disorders that we have had, it is not that the water is better, but to the fact that people are more alive to its dangers, and prefer, where possible, to consume water from private wells, or to empty the pipes by allowing them to run for a time, before drawing off any water for domestic use. Though the water is still the same, I have received information from Dr. Kaye that the County Council have the matter in hand, and will shortly see that matters are remedied.

#### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF CHILDREN in Public Elementary Schools.

On January 1st, 1908, the Education (Administrative Provisions) Act, 1907, comes into force, and concerns the medical inspection of school children. For this purpose, the West Riding Education Committee have had under consideration the appointment of School Medical Officers for the various districts. In this matter they have had many difficulties to consider, but have finally concluded to appoint School Medical Officers who must give the whole of their time for this purpose.

The necessity for such an Act has long been apparent. It must, indeed, result in great improvement in the health and stamina of the children, and, inasmuch as the "child is father to the man," must ultimately lead to a stronger and healthier type of men and women.



## SCAVENGING.

The Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth may be roughly divided into six sub-districts: Greenfield, Upper-mill, Dobcross, Diggle, Delph, and Denshaw. There are arrangements for the systematic removal of refuse at Greenfield, Uppermill, and Delph, at an annual cost of 5s. for each house; whilst in the other districts the scavenging is done by the tenants and farmers.

Some of the butchers complain that they scarcely know what to do with their offal, as they have no proper place to bury it. This is a matter that should receive prompt attention.

## HOUSES.

The new houses built during 1908 were 28 in number. The accommodation is, as a rule, one of 'tipplers,' the water carriage system being used wherever available. There are three notable lots of back-to-back houses, viz.: at Bank Field Terrace, Millgate, and at the Barracks, Junction. The houses in Millgate have been thoroughly over-hauled, and in many cases re-fronted.

The want of new houses is greatly felt, and in fact greater and better housing accommodation is one of the chief requirements of the District. The yards and open spaces in many instances require dealing with, as they are often more than a nuisance.

## DARIES, COWSHEDS, AND MILKSHOP ORDERS.

The Authority has adopted Regulations under § 13 of these Orders, which they will probably soon put into force. They are by no means drastic, and should, when understood, be appreciated, as they only insist on what every conscientious farmer must agree to. They will, in the end, benefit the farmers as much as the community.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

The Slaughter Houses registered are 20 in number, of which only 10 are in use. Although by no means ideal, they are in fair sanitary condition. I have already alluded to the butchers' difficulty in dealing with their offal.

## COMMON LODGING HOUSE.

There is only one in your district, viz.: at Delph, which contains 21 beds. It is registered, and though kept in good sanitary condition, is a constant menace to the health of the district on account of the class of people occupying it.

## CANAL.

Passing through the district, from Diggle to Royal George, is the Manchester and Huddersfield Canal, the boats plying on which are inspected from time to time by your Inspector.

## CANAL BOATS.

These are not registered, as your Authority is not a Registration Authority. The boats inspected during the year were 4 in number.

## INDUSTRIES.

The manufactured goods are woollen and cotton, but chiefly the former. There is a large iron foundry, three print-works, a laundry, and several bleach-works. There is little evidence that the workpeople suffer much in health from their employment; though, no doubt, the large number of women employed tends to a certain amount of infant mortality.

## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

During the year 40 observations were taken.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS.

On April 9th, 1900, when the Rural Sanitary District of Saddleworth was amalgamated with the Uppermill Local Board, to form the present Urban Sanitary District of Saddleworth, the "Order of Amalgamation" made the following Adoptive Acts in force, viz. :

1. The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889.
2. The Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.
3. Parts II. and III. of the Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, of which Part II. is concerned with Sanitary matters.

## BYE-LAWS.

The following bye-laws are in force, and relate to—

1. Private Scavenging.
2. Prevention of Nuisances.
3. Common Lodging Houses.
4. New Streets and Buildings.
5. Slaughter houses.

## FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

This Act came into force on January 1st, 1902, and whilst repealing all the existing Factory and Workshop Acts, it consolidates, with numerous amendments, the provisions they contain.

It provides, amongst other things, for

1. The cleanliness, ventilation, overcrowding, and sanitary condition of all Factories and Workshops, and gives more power to the District Council and their officers to enforce these conditions.

2. The safety of the workers. For example :

- (a) By the fencing of machinery,
- (b) By the provisions of means of escape in case of fire.

[Every District Council shall have power to make bye-laws providing for means of escape from fire in the case of any Factory or Workshop; to which bye-laws § 182 to 186 of the Public Health Act, 1875, shall apply.]

3. The notification to His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Factories by any medical practitioner of any case of

- (a) Lead, phosphorus, arsenic, or mercurial poisoning ;
- (b) Anthrax, or woolsorters' disease.

4. The sanitary condition of Bakehouses, and their maintenance in such a condition, as for example, by periodical lime-washing, etc.

5. The sanitary condition of Laundries, and their maintenance therein.

6. Work done at people's homes.

The Secretary of State has issued special instructions to the Councils, regarding the enforcement by them and their officers, of the provisions in the Factory Act, which deals with the subject of home-work. These provisions (contained

in §§ 107 to 114 of the Act) will be found summarized in the memorandum on the duties of local authorities, under the Factory Act which was issued to the Council, in December, 1904—

The Secretary of State would most earnestly press upon the Council the importance, in the interests of the large class of workers engaged in home work, of a thorough administration of those provisions. Outworkers form the weakest section of the labouring class, and the class in respect of which the State from the nature of the circumstances is least able by its Officers to control the conditions of work. If these conditions are to be effectively controlled, the local authorities, to whom Parliament has entrusted the duty of supervising them, must make a full use of their powers. The Secretary of State may remind the Council that in addition to the ordinary sanitary inspection under the Public Health Act of outworkers' dwellings, which is even more necessary in their case than in the case of ordinary dwellings, the following special obligations are placed on the Council:—

1. The lists of outworkers should be duly received by the Council from employers, twice a year, viz.: on the 1st of February and 1st of August; if neglected, steps should be taken to enforce them.

(a) No name should be entered on the list, of any outworker who has not worked within the last 6 months.

2. The addresses of any outworkers in the lists, who reside in other districts, should be communicated to the Councils of those districts.

3. To prohibit (by making an Order) work being done

(a) where the premises are unwholesome,

(b) where any inmate of the premises suffers from Scarlet Fever, Smallpox, or any infectious disease.

The number of Workshops registered in your district is 30, including 7 Bakehouses. There are no underground Bakehouses. There are 37 Factories, but no Domestic Factories. All the Workshops, and most of the Factories have been inspected, but no legal proceedings have been taken. The Lists of Outworkers received are 12 in number, representing 6 employers, and 33 outworkers. No action has resulted from an outworker having infected premises.

#### RATES.

During the past year, the rates were 5/0 in the £, including a District Rate of 2/6 and a Poor Rate of 2/6 in the £; the former rate includes Lighting, Sanitary, and Special Sanitary Rates.

The gross estimated Rental was £97,642. The rateable value of agricultural land was £5,492, and of buildings, etc., £70,253.

The statistics for England and Wales being now available, I give the following table for comparison.

	England and Wales.	England & Wales less the Towns.	U. S. D. of Saddleworth.
Death-rate .....	14·7	14·7	14·7
Zymotic Death-rate..	1·29	0·99	0·32
Infantile Mortality...	121	110	120·8
Birth-rate.....	26·5	26·2	19·48



Reviewing the Health of the District for the past year, I find the Death-rate and Birth-rate to be nearly the same as those for the previous year, so that I repeat what was said in my last Report, viz., the Death-rate is one of the lowest on record, whilst the Birth-rate is lamentably low. These figures indicate that in your district there have been nearly 82 fewer births than would be required to make our Birth-rate equal even to the abnormally low one of England and Wales.

There was a decreased mortality from Heart, Pulmonary and Infectious Diseases, but an increased one from Cancer and deaths due to accidents. There was a gratifying reduction in the numbers notified as suffering from Infectious Diseases.

The number of children dying under one year of age was much larger than usual.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DISTRICT ARE—

1. The adoption of the Bacterial System to the whole of the sewage.
2. Measures to ensure the Sanatorial Treatment of Consumption.
3. The use of a portable Disinfector, and Dust-suction apparatus.
4. The application of the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Orders.
5. Greater and better housing accommodation.
6. A more adequate and less dangerous water supply.

In conclusion, I append a copy of the Meteorological Report, and the Nuisance Inspector's Report.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT RAMSDEN.



METEOROLOGICAL REPORT. I am much indebted to Chas. J. Batley, Esq., Assoc. M. Inst., C.E., and Resident Engineer at Piethorn, for the following Meteorological Report.

OLDHAM CORPORATION WATER WORKS.

GAUGE, 875 FEET 6 INCHES ABOVE SEA-LEVEL.

RAINFALL AT CASTLESHAW, "BROADHEAD," FOR YEAR  
ENDING 1908.

DATE, 1908.	RAINFALL.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which rain fell.
	Inches.	Date.	Inches.	
January .....	3'33	26	'76	15
February ...	3'25	22	'60	20
March .....	3'20	25	'45	24
April .....	2'13	30	'50	20
May.....	2'64	21	'41	19
June .....	2'52	1	1'25	10
July .....	5'30	16	1'04	14
August .....	4'34	20	'73	17
September ...	4'01	20	1'35	14
October .....	1'50	27	'28	10
November ...	2'37	21	'60	17
December ...	3'16	10	'56	23
	37'75			203

CHAS. J. BATLEY.

OLDHAM CORPORATION WATER WORKS.

RAINFALL AT CASTLESHAW “ BROADHEAD.”

Gauge, 875 feet, 6 Inches above Sea-level.

	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1901	1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908
January	Inches. 1·58	Inches. 1 64	Inches. 2·32	Inches 4·77	Inches. 3·23	Inches. 3·17	Inches. 1·30	Inches. 3·90	Inches. 2·43	Inches. 2·11	Inches. 1·67	Inches. 3·27	Inches. 6·15	Inches. 4·86	Inches. 2·16	Inches. 2·61	Inches. 3·87	Inches. 3·96	Inches. 2·21	Inches. 5·06	Inches. 1·69	Inches. 3·33
February....	1·01	·49	1·94	·88	·35	2·08	5·24	5·97	·57	2·23	2·27	3·45	1·40	3·79	1·63	1·19	4·07	3·52	2·04	3·54	2·31	3·25
March . . . .	1·78	2·74	2·36	4·25	1·89	·79	1·04	4·03	4·17	5·97	4·48	1·72	2·38	·91	2·98	2·28	5·57	2·29	3·86	3·72	3·30	3·20
April . . . . .	1·62	3·39	3·56	1·84	2·12	1·38	·82	2·39	2·67	2·	3·43	2·85	3·58	2·60	2·71	1·83	2·23	2·88	3·15	2·01	2·80	2·13
May . . . . .	2·18	·81	2·22	3·61	3·70	4·94	2·84	2·76	1·28	·77	1·56	3·24	3·42	1·38	1·44	3·04	3·39	3·67	·57	3·93	4·08	2·64
June . . . . .	·47	2·92	·63	3·68	2·06	3·69	2·88	3·63	4·64	3·17	4·18	4·08	1·50	5·96	1·87	1·29	1·51	·92	2·90	1·51	7·23	2·52
July . . . . .	2·02	7·41	4·11	3·47	4·06	3·45	4·26	3·78	8·78	3·54	1·70	·69	1·57	3·54	3·13	2·74	4·03	2·48	2·29	2·35	3·18	5·30
August.....	1 69	3·87	7·79	6·14	9·24	4·36	2·91	4·17	4·78	2·96	4·42	5·92	2·33	5·50	2·34	3·60	5·17	4·41	4·65	3·80	4·02	4·34
September..	5·30	1·98	3·35	1·83	3·93	4·95	4·28	·51	1·73	8.	4·90	·75	6·90	1·58	·80	2·47	5·80	1·76	3·31	1·44	·96	4·01
October ...	3·63	2·15	5·80	3·96	6·71	8·15	3·65	5·13	4·44	5·78	2·60	5·51	4·45	5·84	3·64	5·07	9·29	1·74	3·87	7·59	6·58	1·50
November...	2·53	7·75	2·20	5·71	4·19	3·51	3·71	2·74	3·31	1·64	5·66	2·71	1·30	3·53	6·11	1·78	3·61	3·52	5·22	4·43	3·23	2·27
December...	2·83	2·93	3·13	·59	8·59	2·18	4·62	4·01	4·68	5·74	5·04	4·88	2·22	5·61	5·16	3·50	2·35	3·36	·95	3·87	4·52	3·16
	26·64	38·08	39·41	40·73	50·04	42·65	37·55	43·02	43·40	43·91	41·91	39·07	37·20	45·10	33·97	31·40	50·89	33·51	35·02	43·25	43·90	37·75

# NUISANCE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1908.

NUISANCES.	Unabated, 1907.	Reported, 1908.	Abated, 1908.	Unabated, 1908.
Accumulation of Ashes and Offensive Matter .....	2	40	42	...
Privies and Ashpits requiring Emptying, etc. ....	2	34	35	1
Defective Drainage .....	1	4	5	...
Insufficient Closet Accommodation .....	...	8	8	...
Number of Closets ordered to be erected .....	...	8	8	...
Defective Closets .....	1	8	9	...
Ashpits or Dust Bins ordered .....	...	8	8	...
Filthy Matter lying exposed .....	...	2	2	...
Slop Pipes disconnected and trapped.....	...	4	4	...
TOTAL ...	6	116	121	1

Number of Slaughter-houses used..... 10  
 „ „ Examined ..... 10  
 Smoke observations taken during the Year ..... 40  
 Number of Plans approved for various Works ..... 24

JOHN T. BRADBURY, *Nuisance Inspector.*

